

Investigating Rivers

Learning Objective:

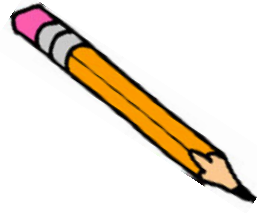
To find out about rivers and how they erode, transport and deposit materials.



How many rivers
around the world can
you name?

You have two minutes to
list as many as you can
with a partner.

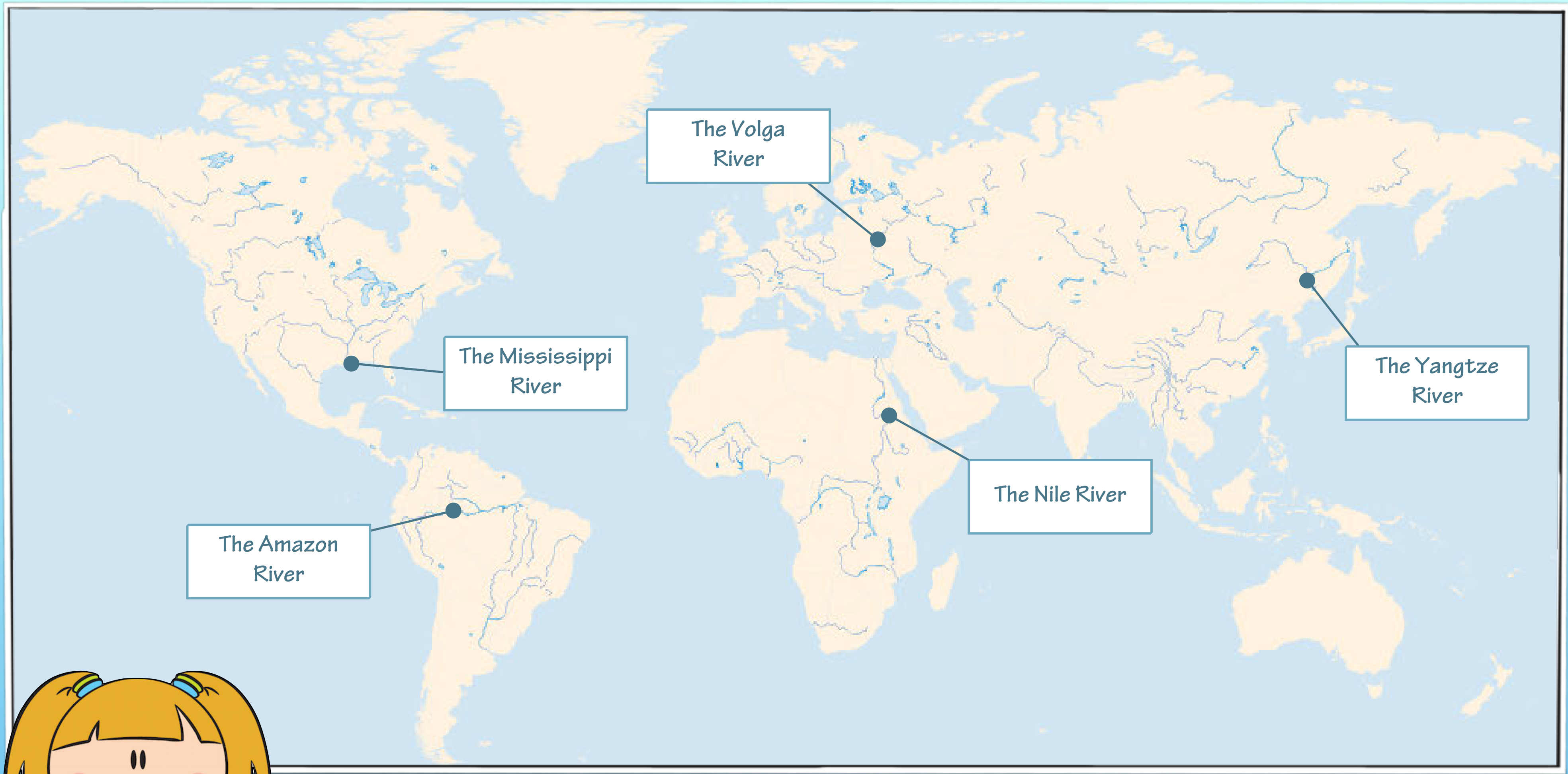
How many could you think of?



Do you know where these rivers are?

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Did you think of these rivers?

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What is a
river?

Where do
they start?

Where do
they end?

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A river starts in a high area when precipitation gathers and starts running down a hill or mountain.

Rivers can also start from mountain springs. This means that river water is always fresh water. To begin with, a river will usually flow very quickly because of the steep edges of the hill or mountain. Waterfalls can often occur here too.

Eventually, the river slows down in speed as the land flattens. Other small streams, known as tributaries, join the main river and make it bigger. Meanders are also created when the river erodes the land to create bends in the river.



A river usually ends when it meets a larger body of water, usually a sea or ocean. The point where the river and the sea meet is called the mouth of the river.

Can rivers
have more than
one mouth?





Do you know what
these words mean?
Erosion
Transportation
Deposition
Let's find out on the next
slides!

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Erosion is
a gradual destruction or wearing
away of something.

When water flows from the source of the river it has lots of energy because gravity is pulling it towards the mouth. This energy creates a force that is able to shape the landscape. The water rubs away at the stone and mud at the edges of the river. This is known as erosion.

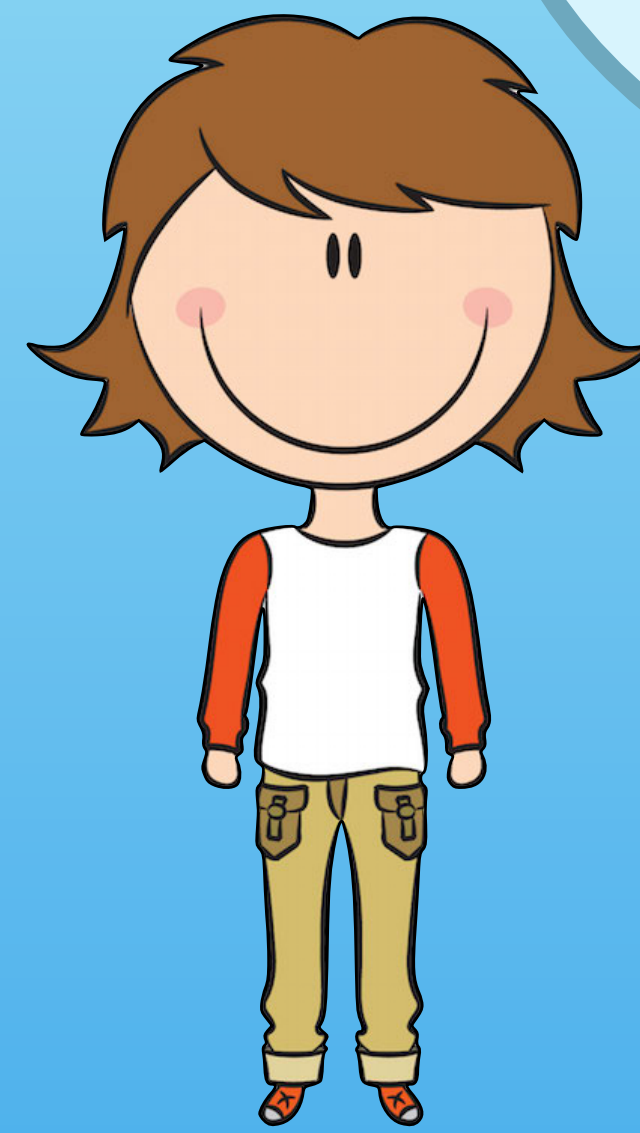
This process can take many years.
How long do you think this took?



Rivers can also transport materials like rocks and sand. Near the source of the river, the water is able to carry large rocks because of the force of the water. As the water slows down, it can only carry smaller stones. Nearer the mouth, a river will only transport sand and very fine stones.



Look how quickly this water is traveling. Any rocks or stones will be carried along with the force of the water.



The materials that are transported by the river often collect at the mouth to form deposits.

These are known as deltas. Deposits can also be formed when the water recedes after flooding.



Rivers that erode the earth, transport materials and deposit materials are responsible for many famous valleys.

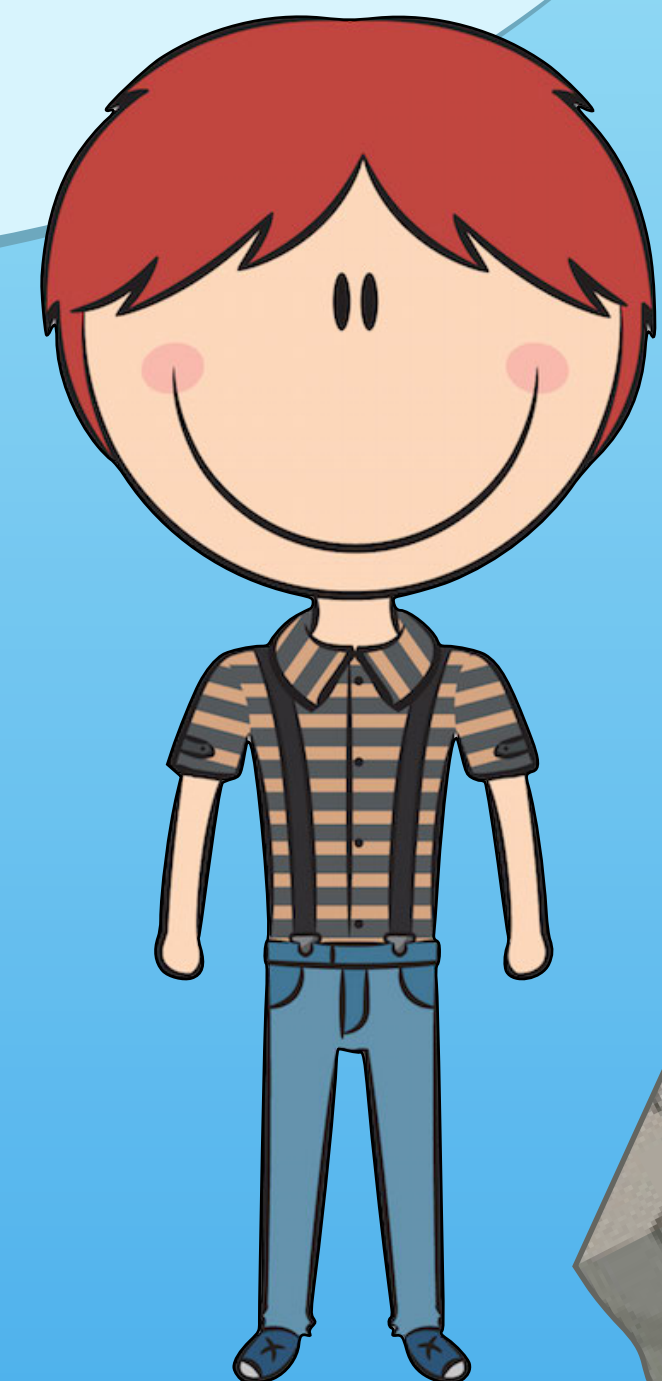
Valleys are formed when rivers erode the land over a long period of time. This makes that land lower than the rest of the land.



Do you know what the Grand Canyon is and where it is in the world?



Look at
these picture of the
Grand Canyon. Do you
think you can explain how it
was formed, relating to
rivers?



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